

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

## SENATE RESOLUTION 456—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR A FREE, FAIR, AND PEACEFUL DECEMBER 4, 2021, ELECTION IN THE GAMBIA

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. COONS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 456

Whereas, in 1965, The Gambia became independent from Great Britain;

Whereas, in 1970, The Gambia became a republic following a public referendum, and Dawda Jawara was elected president and subsequently reelected an additional five times;

Whereas, from 1970 to 1994, The Gambia was one of Africa's longest running democracies and home to the continent's human rights body, the African Commission on Human and People's Rights;

Whereas, in 1994, President Jawara was forcibly removed from office in a coup by the Armed Forces Provisional Ruling Council (AFPRC), led by Lieutenant Yahya Jammeh;

Whereas, after two years of direct AFPRC rule that was heavily criticized by the international community, a flawed constitutional reform process occurred and The Gambia scheduled a new presidential election;

Whereas, in the lead up to the September 1996 presidential election, the Jammeh military government outlawed the country's main opposition parties, restricted media freedom, prohibited meetings between rival candidates and foreign diplomats, and used soldiers to attack opposition rallies;

Whereas Jammeh won the 1996 presidential election in a process widely regarded as flawed by international observers;

Whereas President Jammeh won reelection in 2001, 2006, and 2011 in electoral processes marred by political repression, intimidation, and technical flaws;

Whereas Jammeh's presidency saw targeted violence and widespread gross human rights violations, particularly against members of the media, including the murder of editor Deyda Hydara and the disappearance of journalist Ebrima Manneh;

Whereas President Jammeh personally ordered the kidnapping and torture of individuals he accused of "witchcraft" and threatened others over their sexual orientation;

Whereas thousands of Gambians fled into exile out of concern for their safety, becoming refugees in Africa at large and elsewhere;

Whereas the Jammeh government's human rights record was widely criticized by regional and international human rights groups, as well as the United States, European Union, and members of the United States Senate;

Whereas, in December 2016, opposition grand coalition candidate Adama Barrow, who campaigned on the promise of electoral and constitutional reform, won an upset election victory against President Jammeh;

Whereas, immediately after the 2016 election, Jammeh publicly accepted the defeat, but then later rejected the results and refused to depart the presidency;

Whereas Jammeh's refusal to accept defeat was widely condemned, with the African Union refusing to recognize him as president and the Economic Community of West African States deploying an international intervention force to The Gambia;

Whereas, on January 19, 2017, Barrow was sworn in as president at the Gambian Embassy in Senegal;

Whereas, on January 20, 2017, Jammeh and his family departed The Gambia, reportedly stealing more than \$1,000,000,000 from state coffers, eventually to appear in Equatorial Guinea, where he remains in political exile with impunity;

Whereas President Barrow initially agreed to limit his term to a three-year transition ending on January 19, 2020, but later stated his intent to serve the full five-year constitutional term;

Whereas the Gambian Truth, Reconciliation, and Reparations Commission (TRRC) was established by an act of the Gambian Parliament to examine abuses committed during the Jammeh era and make recommendations as to whom to hold accountable;

Whereas more than 370 victims and former government officials testified at widely viewed TRRC hearings that documented widespread human rights abuses;

Whereas the TRRC's anticipated September 2021 final report submission to President Barrow was delayed; and

Whereas The Gambia will hold the first post-Jammeh era presidential election on December 4, 2021, which will include six presidential candidates; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Gambian people on the successful 2016 presidential election;

(2) supports the courageous and necessary work of the Truth, Reconciliation, and Reparations Commission to bring accountability, healing, and reconciliation to the nation;

(3) calls on all parties and presidential candidates to participate in a free, fair, credible, and peaceful December 4, 2021, presidential election in The Gambia; and

(4) expresses the support of the American people in The Gambia's continued and noteworthy democratic path forward.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 457—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF NOVEMBER 9, 2021, AS "NATIONAL MICROtia AND ATRESIA AWARENESS DAY"

Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 457

Whereas microtia is a congenital anomaly, affecting the outer ear, where the ear does not fully develop during the first trimester of pregnancy;

Whereas microtia is often accompanied by aural atresia, which is the absence or closure of the external auditory ear canal resulting in hearing loss;

Whereas an estimated 750,000 people worldwide have microtia;

Whereas microtia is diagnosed at birth, affecting 1 ear or both ears, but there is no understanding as to why microtia occurs;

Whereas aural atresia is usually diagnosed at birth, affecting 1 ear or both ears, but in some cases may not be recognized until later in life;

Whereas doctors and nurses may be well versed in the conditions and quickly educate and prepare parents;

Whereas, in certain settings, the conditions are rare enough that misinformation or lack of information quickly evaporates any remaining sense of celebration that accompanies a birth; and

Whereas living with facial challenges such as craniofacial microsomia and hearing loss, as well as the longing for social acceptance, are some of the daily concerns for individuals who are born with microtia or aural atresia; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of November 9, 2021, as "National Microtia and Atresia Awareness Day";

(2) encourages each person of the United States—

(A) to celebrate the community that is made up of not only children and adults with microtia or aural atresia, but families, teachers, advocates, and medical professionals from around the world who foster awareness and assistance; and

(B) to help promote public awareness of microtia, aural atresia, and the hope that future generations of families will leave the hospital equipped with more answers than questions, along with their dream for their child intact;

(3) supports efforts to remove unnecessary barriers and replace them with resources and tools that aim to eliminate bullying and clear the way for an even more successful future for those with microtia or atresia;

(4) encourages Federal, State, and local policymakers to work together—

(A) to raise awareness about microtia or atresia;

(B) to improve proper diagnosis of microtia or atresia; and

(C) to support advancements in technology that improve the lives of those with microtia and aural atresia; and

(5) encourages the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate awareness and educational activities.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 458—RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

Mr. COONS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 458

Whereas, for 75 years, the United Nations Children's Fund (commonly known as "UNICEF") has worked tirelessly to support the rights and well-being of every child, in partnership with the United States;

Whereas UNICEF was established in December 1946 to provide relief for children and adolescents in war-ravished countries and for child health purposes generally and to provide, without discrimination, assistance to vulnerable children around the world;

Whereas, in 1965, the Nobel Prize was awarded to UNICEF for the "promotion of brotherhood among nations";

Whereas UNICEF has been and remains a formidable and stalwart advocate for children around the world;

Whereas UNICEF operates in more than 190 countries and territories to save the lives, to defend the rights, and fulfill the potential of children from early childhood through adolescence;

Whereas UNICEF partners with United States service organizations, including with Rotary International to eradicate polio, Kiwanis International to fight maternal and neonatal tetanus and iodine deficiency disorders, the American Red Cross to decrease the incidence of childhood measles, Lions Club International to promote and support education initiatives globally, Special Olympics International to protect and uphold the